

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A device for sealing a puncture tract by forming and extruding an autologous plug within the puncture tract, wherein the puncture tract is disposed within tissue proximal to a vessel, the device comprising:

a housing comprising an outer tube and an inner tube, the inner tube having a lumen adapted to mix in flow communication with the puncture tract and the vessel, the inner tube further having a plurality of openings in fluid communication with the outer tube, a volume of blood provided in the lumen being mixable with a blood congealing agent provided to the volume of blood;

a closure element configured to be inserted from the housing into the puncture tract and to isolate ~~the mixture of~~ the volume of blood ~~and admixed with~~ the blood congealing agent from the vessel during formation of the autologous plug from the volume of blood by action of the blood congealing agent; and

a plunger disposed for translation within the lumen to extrude the autologous plug formed within the lumen.

22. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a second lumen to facilitate placement of a distal end of the device defined by an annular interstice between the outer tube and the inner tube.

23. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 21, wherein the second lumen is disposed within the ~~further comprising a plunger disposed within the lumen.~~

24. (Currently Amended) The device of claim [[1]] 21, wherein the autologous plug formed in the lumen has a length and a form factor that causes the autologous plug to engage tissue surrounding the puncture tract after ejection by the plunger into the puncture tract.

25. (Currently Amended) The device of claim [[1]] 21, wherein the closure element comprises a pledget and thread.

26. (Currently Amended) The device of claim [[5]] 21, wherein at least one of the pledget and the thread is biodegradable.

27. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 1, wherein the closure element comprises a selectively closable iris.

28. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 7, wherein the selectively closable iris comprises a plate having a plurality of tracks and an opening disposed therethrough, and a plurality of blades operably engaged to the plurality of tracks.

29. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 1, wherein the closure element comprises first and second plates, each of the first and second plates having a plurality of through-wall slots, the first and second plates being relatively rotatable to selectively align the pluralities of through-wall slots.

30. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 1, wherein the closure element comprises a membrane that is permeable to blood and impermeable to the blood coagulating agent.

31. (Currently Amended) The device of claim [[1]] 21, wherein the blood coagulating agent is pre-disposed within the lumen.

32. (Currently Amended) The device of claim [[11]] 21, wherein the blood coagulating agent is coated onto an interior surface of the lumen.

33. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 21, wherein the blood congealing agent is introduced into the lumen ~~subsequent to actuation of the closure element through the plurality of opening.~~

34. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[11]]~~ 21, wherein the blood congealing agent comprises a platinum wire.

35. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[11]]~~ 21, wherein the blood congealing agent comprises a thermo- resistive wire.

36. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 21, wherein the blood congealing agent is chosen from the group consisting of thrombin, fibrin, human factor VIII, and combinations thereof.

37. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 21, wherein the blood congealing agent comprises a matrix.

38. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[17]]~~ 37, wherein the matrix is chosen from the group consisting of gauze, biocompatible foam, and spun fiber.

39. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[17]]~~ 37, wherein the matrix is biodegradable.

40. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[17]]~~ 37, wherein the matrix comprises at least one channel disposed therethrough.